

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling a set top box comprising:

providing a set top box that can be controlled by a telephone line coupled to the set top box;

receiving a telephone call from a calling party via the telephone line; and

controlling the set top box via at least one command transmitted by the calling party to the set top box during the telephone call, the controlling including directing the set top box to tune to a television event in accordance with the at least one command,

wherein the telephone line is directly coupled to the set top box,

wherein the receiving of the telephone call is performed by the set top box, and

wherein the at least one command is transmitted directly to the set top box.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box via at least one command transmitted by the calling party comprises receiving at least one predetermined number dialed by the calling party.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises disabling the set top box.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises enabling the set top box.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises directing the set top box to decrease a

volume of a television set coupled to the set top box.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5 further comprising directing the set top box to transmit an audio signal from the calling party over a speaker of the television set.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises directing the set top box to play at least an audio portion of a television event over the telephone line.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises directing the set top box to record a television event.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein directing the set top box to record a television event comprises directing the set top box to transmit a record command to a video recording device.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the set top box comprises directing the set top box to play a telephone message previously recorded by the set top box.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus adapted to employ a telephone interface comprising:

 a processor comprising computer program code adapted to control a set top box via at least one command transmitted by a calling party over a telephone line coupled to the set top box, the command being transmitted during a telephone call, the controlling including directing the set top box to tune to a television event in accordance with the at least one command,

wherein the telephone line is directly coupled to the set top box, and

wherein the at least one command is transmitted directly to the set top box.

Claim 13 (Original): A set top box comprising the apparatus of claim 12.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for causing a processor to execute a method of controlling a set top box, the method comprising:

controlling a set top box via at least one command transmitted by a calling party over a telephone line coupled to the set top box, the command being transmitted during a telephone call, the controlling including directing the set top box to tune to a television event in accordance with the at least one command,

wherein the telephone line is directly coupled to the set top box, and

wherein the at least one command is transmitted directly to the set top box.